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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. AT THE UNITED NATIONS

A. FRANCE DESIRES SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE ME ...

FRENCH UN REP LECOMPT INFORMED AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE DECEMBER 11 THAT FRANCE WANTS A FORMAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE MIDDLE EAST PRIOR TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. FAILURE TO HOLD ONE, ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH, WOULD DOWNGRADE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COUNCIL. LECOMPT ALSO SAID THE NOALIGNED WORKING PAPER IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH, AND FRANCE PREFERS THAT THE COUNCIL EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PARTICIPATION. USUN COMMENTS THAT THE FRENCH ATTITUDE IS BASED ON ITS FRUSTRATION AT BEING LEFT OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) USUN 5572, AND 5584, 12/12 (EXDIS).

B. ...WHILE OTHER MEMBERS SHOW MORE RESTRAINT.

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OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF

YUGOSLAVIA SEEM FULLY AWARE OF THE DELICATE NATURE OF THE TALKS, AND REALIZE THE UN MUST DO NOTHING TO UPSET THE BALANCE ALREADY ACHIEVED. INDIA IN PARTICULAR HAS SHOWN A MATURE SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING THE UN'S ROLE, WHILE NEITHER KENYA OR GUINEA HAS JOINED WITH FRANCE IN INSISTING ON A SECURITY COUNCIL "AUTHORIZATION" OR "MANDATE" FOR THE CONFERENCE. EVEN THE USSR, AMBASSADOR BENNETT NOTES WRONGLY, IS ON ITS GOOD BEHAVIOR. (CONFIDENTIAL) USUN 5584, 12/12 (EXDIS).

2. SOVIET WEEKLY ENDORSES THE PLO

IN THE DECEMBER 12 ISSUE OF THE LITERARY GAZETTE, SOVIET ARABIST IGOR BELYAYEV ASSERTS THAT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE MUST DEAL WITH THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) ON PALESTINE MATTERS AND THAT THE PLO MUST FORMULATE CONCRETE PROPOSALS CONCERNING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS THAT THE BELYAYEV ARTICLE IS THE FIRST PUBLIC SOVIET ENDORSEMENT OF THE PLO AND BELIEVES IT MAY BE A TRIAL BALLOON MEANT TO GAUGE REACTION TO MORE OPEN SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE ORGANIZATION. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MOSCOW 15532, 12/12.

3. DAMASCUS REPORTS VIOLENT CLASH WITH ISRAELIS

A MILITARY SPOKESMAN IN DAMASCUS HAS REPORTED A BATTLE IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR OF THE FRONT INVOLVING ARTILLERY, TANKS, AND MORTARS. THE SYRIANS CLAIM TO HAVE DESTROYED A ROCKET VEHICLE, THREE TANKS, ONE BULLDOZER, AND ONE HEAVY MACHINEGUN EMPLACEMENT WHILE LOSING ONLY ONE TRANSPORT VEHICLE. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO STATED THAT TWENTY ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED. (UNCLASSIFIED) FBIS 88, 12/12.

4. US-AFGHAN RELATIONS

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EMBASSY KABUL REPORTS THAT, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, THE MATTER OF POSSIBLE US INVOLVEMENT IN THE MAIWANDWAL COUP ATTEMPT HAS BEEN LAID TO REST. THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT THE MOTIVES FOR RAISING THE ISSUE ARE NOT CLEAR WHEN VIEWED IN LIGHT OF THE WEAK "EVIDENCE," BUT MAY INDICATE THAT THE US WILL HAVE TO PROVE THAT OUR INTENTIONS TOWARD THE DAOUD REGIME ARE FRIENDLY. (SECRET) KABUL 8449, 12/11 (EXDIS).

5. PRAVDA COMMENTS ON US NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

PRAVDA (DECEMBER 12) IN ITS FIRST EXTENSIVE COMMENTARY ON THE APPEARANCE OF SEVENTH FLEET UNITS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AVOIDS REFERENCE TO AN INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE BUT DOES ASSERT THAT THE PRESENCE OF US NAVAL VESSELS NEAR SOUTHERN ARABIA HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A ME PEACE SETTLEMENT AND THAT THE SEVENTH FLEET, JUST AS PREVIOUSLY IN VIETNAM, IS A SOURCE OF TENSION IN THE AREA. THE ARTICLE NOTES SOUTH YEMINI AND EGYPTIAN COMPLAINTS REGARDING OUR FORCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MOSCOW 15488, 12/12.

6. KUWAIT: PARTICIPATION RATHER THAN NATIONALIZATION

EMBASSY KUWAIT REPORTS THAT THE GOK, INSTEAD OF SUPPORTING A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL TO NATIONALIZE THE GULF/ BRITISH PETROLEUM OWNED KUWAIT OIL COMPANY, IS WITH SOME SUCCESS CONVINCING THE ASSEMBLY THAT PARTICIPATION IS PREFERABLE TO NATIONALIZATION. IN A DECEMBER 10 "SECRET SESSION" THE GOK ARGUED FOR PARTICIPATION AND PRESENTED TO THE ASSEMBLY THE GENERAL POINTS OF A PARTICIPATION ACCORD STILL BEING NEGOTIATED WITH THE OIL COMPANIES. THE ACCORD CALLS FOR SIXTY PERCENT GOK PARTICIPATION WITH REIMBURSEMENT BASED ON THE BOOK VALUE OF ASSETS. THE GOK FEELS IT MADE ITS POINT THAT KUWAIT IS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO DO WITHOUT THE COMPANIES IN RUNNING THE OIL INDUSTRY. (CONFIDENTIAL) KUWAIT 4320, 12/12.

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7. VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT-ELECT ON FOREIGN POLICY

CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF VENEZUELA, SAID IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US, BUT EXPECTS MORE JUST TREATMENT IN RETURN. COMMENTING ON US POLICY, HE OBSERVED THAT "THE POLICY OF MR. NIXON HAS NOT BEEN A HAPPY ONE FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTINENT," AND THAT VENEZUELAN "HAVE EVERY REASON TO BE IRKED AND RESENTFUL OF THAT POLICY." PEREZ ALSO SAID VENEZUELA WOULD NOT ACT UNILATERALLY, I.E. OUTSIDE THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, TO RENEW DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA. (UNCLASSIFIED) CARACAS 10599, FBIS 124, 12/12. RUSH

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